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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Colombia

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Military Revolts in Latin America

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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1. At a meeting of the National Committee of the Partido Comunista de Colombia (PCG) on 23 November 1948, Rafael Baquero H., Secretary of Finance, made a lengthy speech in which he urged the organization of Communist cells throughout the country to serve as the basis for the fight against militarism in Colombia. The Communists believe that the recent military coups in Peru and Venezuela were carried out with the clandestine aid and counsel of the United States Government, which is attempting to secure imperialist governments throughout Latin America in preparation for a conflict with the Soviet Union. According to the Communists, this was proven by the rapid recognition of the new Peruvian administration by the United States, which interpreted the Bogota agreement relative to recognition of new regimes to further its proposals for unification of arms throughout the hemisphere.
2. Baquero also discussed the possibility of serious trouble in Colombia following the elections in March 1949. He stated that if the Liberals were defeated again, it would put the minority party in power once more. This would inevitably lead to discontent and chaos, which would give the militarists an opportunity to take over the government under the guise of saving the country from chaos and civil war.
3. In closing, Baquero urged the Communists to carry on an intensive propaganda and agitation campaign accusing the United States of fomenting the recent military uprisings in neighboring countries and of being responsible for the present economic situation in Colombia.

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